

**San Luis Obispo County Storm Water Management Program
Response to Comments from EcoSLO October 5, 2006 Letter**

1. The County Storm Water Management Program must include strong and measurable means to protect Sea Otters. (p 2, first full paragraph.)

Response: Recent studies indicate that there may be a correlation between toxoplasma gondii infection in Southern Sea Otters and coastal runoff. Toxoplasma gondii is associated with Southern Sea Otter mortality. The toxoplasma gondii parasite has been traced to humans and terrestrial animals. However, toxoplasma gondii cysts are only excreted by cat species. A potential toxoplasma gondii source may be urban runoff carrying cat waste infected with the parasite. The County's public education and outreach program will emphasize sea otter protection utilizing educational outreach materials and radio and television public service announcements (BMP PE18). The County will distribute pet waste educational material at animal shelters, pet stores, 4H clubs, veterinarian offices, and farm supply stores. The County will promote nonprofit organizations dedicated to trap, neuter, and release/adoption programs for feral cats (BMP PE18G). The County will promote spay and neuter programs to reduce feral populations (PE18H) and will provide pet spay and neuter educational materials to promote responsible pet ownership through the Animal Services Division (PE18I).